Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a feed section which feeds originals one by one;

a reading section which reads an image on an original fed from the feed section;

a storage section which stores image data read by the reading section;

a first control section which executes a control to feed the next original from the feed section, when the image data of said original has been stored in the storage section; and

a second control section which executes a control to read out the image data from the storage section and subjects the read-out data to an encoding process, the encoding process being a process to convert the read-out data into fixed-length codes in units of 2 x 2 pixels by a fixed-length encoding method, in parallel with the control by the first control section, and to store a result of the encoding process in the storage section.

2.   (Original)   An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage section is a hard disk drive.

3.   (Original)   An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the encoding process controlled by the second control section is a JPEG encoding process.

4.   (Canceled).

5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Canceled).

7.   (Canceled).

8.   (Canceled).

9.   (Canceled).

10.   (New) A method for reading an image, comprising:

feeding originals one by one;

reading an image on each of the originals;

storing read image data;

controlling to feed the next original, when the image data of the original has been

stored; and

controlling to read out the stored image data and to subject the read-out data to an

encoding process, the encoding process being a process to convert the read-out data into

fixed-length codes in units of 2 x 2 pixels by a fixed-length encoding method, in parallel with,

controlling to feed the next original and to store a result of the encoding process.

11.   (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the encoding process is a

JPEG encoding process.